

Torrance, California  
August 26, 1941

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, August 26, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held August 12, 1941, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 13, 1941, of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 19, 1941 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held August 20, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from the WALTERIA Civic Organization, requesting repairs to the gutters on both sides of Hawthorne Avenue from Highway 101 to 242nd Street in WALTERIA.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be referred to the City Engineer and the Street Department for action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, inviting the City Council to attend a meeting scheduled for 1:30 P.M. September 2, 1941 in the office of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce at 16420 South Vermont Avenue, Gardena, subject of discussion to be the effect of the priority system in the matter of supplies now imposed upon the people of the United States of America in the interest of National Defense, aim of the meeting being to discuss ways and means of alleviating conditions resulting from the priority system.

Mayor McGuire advised that a movement is in progress at this time to form a general committee for the entire state with regard to the above matter, according to information furnished by Mr. A. I. Stewart in a speech made by him before the League of California

Cities meeting of recent date. Mayor McGuire suggested that Mr. McDonnell, Secretary of the Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, be advised that some action can be expected in the near future.

A communication was read from the County of Los Angeles, Board of Supervisors, enclosing copy of a resolution, which Clerk Bartlett read in full, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on August 12, 1941, instructing the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of the Department of Public Assistance to devise plans; instructing heads of departments to provide trucks and operators; and requesting the various cities of the County to cooperate in emergency mobilization of men on relief rolls for fire fighting and for use by Los Angeles County Civilian Defense Committee in times of disasters.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Fire and Police Departments for study and recommendation at the next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication addressed to the City Engineer was read from the Division of Highways, referring to a letter from the Engineer of August 16, 1941 requesting a report of any decision which might have been made by the Division of Highways relative to the installation of semi-automatic traffic signals at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue, State Highway Route 164, and Redondo-Wilmington Boulevard, State Highway Route 60. It was advised that the Division of Highways had recommended to the Sacramento office approval of said installation, advising that the City Engineer will be advised immediately a reply has been received.

A communication was read from Isaac H. Hawkins, Mayor of the City of Redondo Beach, expressing regrets with regard to discontinuance of the Chamber of Commerce program in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Lola Adams, 761 Kohler Street, Los Angeles, requesting license to engage in the business of Palmistry in the City of Torrance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the Police Department for recommendation. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the South Bay Humane Society, Inc., signed by Bernice Davison, Secretary, requesting that something be done toward abolishing the hazard of open sump holes.

It was suggested that the South Bay Humane Society, Inc. be contacted regarding locations of the sump holes referred to.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the matter be referred to the Police Department for recommendation. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Electric Shop, requesting that Mr. Gascoigne be given authority to back fill a small trench at the Firestone Service Station with black-top.

Attorney McCall advised that, inasmuch as the trench is on private property, the City cannot comply with the request unless the City is remunerated therefor.

Councilman Babcock moved that the request be granted, provided the terms as specified by Attorney McCall are complied with.

After short discussion, Councilman Babcock withdrew the above motion and moved that the matter be referred to the Engineer for action. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The hour of 8:00 P.M. having arrived, Mayor McGuire announced that bidding on tax deeded property would open.

Mr. Greig listed the various lots offered for sale on the blackboard.

Clerk Bartlett opened and read sealed bid as follows:

Bid submitted by: E. G. Zwaschka, 1330 Sartori Avenue, Torrance, California, who bid as follows:

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Tract</u>	<u>Bid Offered</u>
16	89	Torrance	\$350.00

Mayor McGuire called three times for oral bids on Lot 16, Block 89, Torrance Tract. No response.

Councilman Babcock moved that the bid of E. G. Zwaschka, 1330 Sartori Avenue, Torrance, California, of \$350.00 for Lot 16, Block 89, Torrance Tract be approved and accepted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1491

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY  
BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Note: Sold to E. G. Zwaschka.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1491 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mr. Greig suggested that anyone who desired to bid on any of the lots listed on the board do so, doing away with the necessity of calling them in rotation for bids.

It appearing that no one desired to bid on the lots listed, Mr. Greig erased the list, with the exception of Lot 16, Block 89, Torrance Tract, and entered another list on the board.

Mr. Bob Trezise offered a bid of \$300.00 on Lot 17, Block 89, Torrance Tract, but was informed that bids below the minimum price cannot be considered, the minimum price of said lot being \$350.00.

At 8:11 P.M., it appearing that no one else desired to bid on tax deeded lots, Councilman Babcock moved that bids be closed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Los Angeles County Fair Association, advising that, from present indications, there will be a picket line during the Fair, and requested what difference, if any, such an outlook will make upon proposed appearance of the Torrance Municipal Band. It was advised that reservations had been made on the stage of the Agricultural Building for September 14, 1941 for the Torrance Municipal Band appearance.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the Band Director, Mr. Watson, with instructions to contact members of the Band and later to contact the City Council regarding appearance of the Band at the Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona, appearance of the Band having been scheduled for September 14, 1941. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A copy of a letter to Huntington Land and Improvement Company, signed by 45 persons, was read, objecting to erection of electric light poles with overhead wiring, or cables, in Hollywood Riviera, Tracts No. 10,300 and 10,302, advising that property had been purchased with the understanding that all wiring on, or leading to or from, said property, would be placed underground at no cost to the property owners. A demand was made for strict compliance with the restriction mentioned.

Engineer Jain advised that the Southern California Edison Company Ltd. had called him, requesting cancellation of his (Mr. Jain's) request to withhold work of installing the poles for the time being, the Edison Company having been notified to withhold work pending disposition of the petition. Mr. Jain advised he had notified the Edison Company that he could take no action in the matter until after the Council meeting.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication, or petition, be filed. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion.

Attorney McCall advised he had informed the right of way manager of the Edison Company that the City of Torrance has nothing to do with the matter, except as a courtesy to the property owners. He said the right of way manager had informed him (Mr. McCall) that no such restriction against placing overhead wiring existed in the actual contracts of property purchased, but that the real estate firm who sold lots in the subdivision had represented to the buyers that such a restriction would be given.

Councilman Hitchcock said he felt the matter should be given further study and that, in the meantime, the Edison Company should withhold all work.

Mayor McGuire questioned whether or not the City of Torrance has the authority to prevent the Edison Company from going ahead with the work of installing the poles.

Councilman Hitchcock pointed out that it was at the request of the City of Torrance that the Edison Company is doing the work, but that if the work conflicts with some restriction of the district, the matter should be given thorough investigation.

Mayor McGuire asked Attorney McCall whether or not, in his opinion, after the City has requested certain work to be done, and after the work is in progress, it is claimed that the work conflicts with certain regulations of the district, the City has the authority to order the company, (in this case, the Edison Company,) to discontinue the work.

Attorney McCall advised that he did not understand the City of Torrance had requested the installation of the poles, but understood that a petition had been presented requesting said installation, and a contract drawn up for the City to enter into. The City had not, however, entered into the contract, Mr. McCall stated. He informed that the Edison Company had received an easement from the Huntington Land Company over property on which it was proposed to install the poles, plus easements obtained from private owners of property, according to information given him by the right of way agent of the Edison Company. In view of these facts, he stated, he could see no way the City could prevent the Edison Company from going ahead with the work. The residents could, he said, enjoin the Edison Company from putting in the poles.

Engineer Jain said Mr. Bartlett of the Edison Company had advised that the Edison Company had knowledge of the above petition, and that the Huntington Land Company planned to do nothing about it. He said the Edison Company had informed that, inasmuch as poles had been ordered especially for this job, it will be necessary to receive instructions as to whether or not the work is to proceed in order that the poles can be moved to prevent theft. Mr. Jain advised further that the Edison Company has put in the footings for the metal poles.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be instructed to contact the Southern California Edison Company, Ltd. and the Huntington Land Company, with the request that each of the companies submit to the City of Torrance in writing what they expect to do in regard to the communication signed by 45 residents, or property owners, of the Hollywood Riviera section objecting to placing of electric light poles with overhead wiring in the Hollywood Riviera section. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Vote was taken on the motion to file the communication, which was carried unanimously.

A petition, bearing 17 signatures, was read, advising that efforts are being made to restore the recently condemned residence at 1518½ Crenshaw Boulevard, and strenuously objecting to restoration of said building. It was suggested that the City Attorney be instructed to invoke such nuisance provisions as provided for by ordinance, or, if no such ordinance exists, that the City Engineer be requested to refuse permit for construction or remodeling of the building. It was urged that prompt action be taken in order to prevent the restoration and occupancy of the building.

Four postcards, requesting the City Attorney to invoke the nuisance provisions in order to make it possible for the City Council to dispense with the unsightly and recently condemned residence at 1518½ Crenshaw Boulevard, were read.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communication and postcards be filed. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain advised that his office had received no request for building permit for remodeling of the house. He pointed out that it is not necessary to obtain permits unless the work exceeds \$50.00, and that, apparently, the owner is working inside the house tearing off the charred walls and repairing the windows.

Attorney McCall advised that a law has been passed recently providing means to abolish buildings which have been declared unfit for habitation. He offered to obtain a copy of the law and submit an opinion at the next meeting.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, requesting substantial salary increases for members of the Engineering Department and submitting letter from O. D. Butterfield, City Electrician and J. E. Long, Electrician, stating that he is in full accord with the request contained therein that Mr. Butterfield be compensated for his services as City Electrician in the amount of \$250.00 per month and that Mr. Long be compensated for his services as Electrician in the amount of \$190.00 per month. Wages should be adjusted, it was stated, to conform with prevailing rates paid by private industries for similar types of work.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be referred to the City Council as a whole for study and report. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The following applications for positions were read:

- (1) John Magee, P.O. Box 143, Torrance. For work in the Park Department.
- (2) Arthur Dean, 24407 Ward Street, WALTERIA. For work in the Street Department.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the communications be dated and filed. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented three resolutions pertaining to sales of tax deeded land made at the August 12, 1941 meeting for adoption.



RESOLUTION NO. 1492

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY BY  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Note: Sold to Frank H. Egerer.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1492 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 1493

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY BY  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Note: Sold to C. P. Alverson.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1493 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

RESOLUTION NO. 1494

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF  
CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY BY  
THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Note: Sold to John R. Winters.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1494 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 330

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
FIXING THE TAX RATES AND LEVYING TAXES  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1,  
1941.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 330 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that Ordinance No. 330 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain reported that, in the matter of the complaints received regarding the brick yard in North Torrance, a survey had disclosed that the owner of the brick yard business had encroached 125 feet on the adjoining property, not owned by him. He said the owner of the property is a Mr. Haney and the owner of the brick yard business is a Mr. Liston. Mr. Jain said stakes had been set and signs posted to prohibit Mr. Liston from encroaching further on the property adjoining the property owned by Mr. Haney.

Engineer Jain reported that the company who has been authorized to drill the well in North Torrance on property deeded to the City by the Crown Water Company is expected to move in equipment this evening to begin operations. He said the City of Torrance is awaiting receipt of priority number; that materials are on hand, but operations cannot begin on erecting the tank until the number is received.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$69.53 be made for paving repairs on Cravens Avenue and Border Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$358.00 be made for material for repairs on Cabrillo Avenue from Plaza del Amo to Lincoln Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$370.00 be made for material for repairs on Gramercy Avenue from Plaza del Amo to Lincoln Avenue. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that the action taken by the City Council at an Informal Meeting instructing City Clerk to write a letter to L. J. Gilmeister, advising that his services as manager of the Municipal Bus Lines would terminate August 31, 1941, be ratified. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$275.00, plus tax, be made for the following work: remove, repair and reinstall pump and make connections to new water tank on property deeded to the City by Crown Water Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for one 50 Watt Transmitter 2-way radio station and units for four cars. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$117.65, including tax, be made for purchase of 30 1500 watt lamps for replacement and stock at the ball park. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$95.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of conduit and fittings for Electrical Department stock. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$65.00, plus tax, be made for purchase of bed, mattress and accessories for the Fire Department. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to enter into contract with Mr. J. G. Bergeron to employ Mr. Bergeron as part time engineer at the Walteria Fire Station for one year, beginning August 25, 1941 and terminating August 25, 1942. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sam Levy requested that the ordinance pertaining to loading and unloading be revised. Chief Stroh advised that the ordinance referred to by Mr. Levy is Ordinance No. 275. Mr. Levy contended that, although the intent of the ordinance is to prevent unloading and loading in such manner as to obstruct the sidewalk, the ordinance as it now exists prohibits loading or unloading one or more packages from vehicles parked in the business district.

Councilman Babcock moved that the matter be referred to the City Attorney for revision of the ordinance if there exists a conflict between the wording and intent of said ordinance.

Councilman Babcock withdrew his motion when Mayor McGuire referred the matter to Attorney McCall for study.

Mr. Charles Elman inquired about the future operation of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, asking how a bus line could function without a manager (referring to the action taken to ratify action of the Council in terminating services of L. J. Gilmeister as Manager of the Bus Lines).

Mayor McGuire informed that Mr. L. J. Gilmeister had never been the official manager of the Bus Lines; but that his services had been loaned by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Gilmeister being Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at the time) for a few months. He stated further that it is felt that the City cannot afford to pay the salary Mr. Gilmeister would require for his services as Manager of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines.

Mr. Joel Hagberg inquired about the ordinance pertaining to keeping of horses. He was advised that the City of Torrance is governed by County of Los Angeles regulations in the matter of keeping horses and other animals.

Mr. Hagberg said he had the impression that a City of Torrance ordinance is in effect pertaining to keeping horses. He cited a case in Walteria where someone is keeping a horse close enough to other residents as to be injurious to health of said residents.

Mr. Hagberg said that, in the interest of National Defense, the City of Torrance should have a Coordinator of Defense, and added that he would favor placing Mr. James Wilkes in such position.

Mayor McGuire informed Mr. Hagberg that, in answer to his first question about an ordinance governing keeping of horses, he would instruct Attorney McCall to investigate the matter and ascertain whether or not an ordinance is in existence.

In answer to Mr. Hagberg's suggestion for a Coordinator of Defense, Mayor McGuire advised that Mr. Hal Kennedy, representative of the Government on State League and State Counsel Defense committees, has informed that there is in progress now a great deal of effort to



set up a uniform, ideal law, or ordinance, covering the entire United States of America in the matter of National Defense. In this way, Mayor McGuire pointed out, coordinated action could be expected in times of disaster.

Mr. Klusman asked what the status of the several candidates who filed nomination papers for the offices of Councilmen of the City of Torrance, election of same to take place September 10, 1941.

Mayor McGuire informed that a decision will be rendered September 2, 1941 in the Los Angeles division of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Klusman, referring to the letter from the Mayor of Redondo Beach regarding the discontinuance of the Chamber of Commerce, advised that the businessmen should maintain the Chamber if they so desired, but the people's tax money should not be used for the Chamber of Commerce, which was voted, he said, for music, parks and advertising.

Mayor McGuire informed Mr. Klusman that the Chamber of Commerce had been used as the City's advertising medium, in accordance with the purpose of the tax levy, it being for "music, parks and advertising".

Mr. Elman said he felt the Chamber of Commerce activity is one of the most important functions of a municipality.

Mr. Edsel Newton of Walteria asked regarding repairs for Neece Avenue in Walteria. He was advised that the 1941-42 budget allocations include repairs for Neece Avenue.

Mrs. Dillinger, 2468 Torrance Boulevard, objected to the dust on Torrance Boulevard caused, she asserted, by the method of oiling the street. Referred to Street Department.


Clerk Bartlett reported that the next regular meeting of the Council will be September 11, 1941, inasmuch as the regular meeting date falls on September 9, 1941, a legal holiday, and September 10, 1941 being election day.

Councilman Babcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 9:15 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Hitchcock, seconded by Councilman Babcock, the meeting adjourned.

  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

  
Mayor of the City of Torrance